

## ***INTRODUCTION***

The Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (JJAG) is pleased to present this 1999 Annual Report to Governor Angus S. King, Jr. and the Legislature. This report covers three areas: (1) Review of the requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and Maine's compliance with them; (2) Grants awarded to towns/cities/organizations and brief descriptions of the projects funded; and (3) Members of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

### ***Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act***

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act was passed by Congress in 1974 to address national concerns about juvenile delinquency and youth involved in the juvenile justice system. It requires that participating states provide for an advisory group of members with training, experience or special knowledge concerning the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency or the administration of juvenile justice. The Maine JJAG members are appointed by the Governor for a four-year term. Board members serve in a voluntary capacity, providing input and direction to the state administrative agency (the Maine Department of Corrections) on issues concerning juvenile justice.

This marks the twenty-fifth year of Maine's participation and the establishment of the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. The JJAG's primary responsibilities include:

- (1) preparation of a state three-year juvenile justice plan
- (2) approval of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grants made from funds provided to the state under the federal Act
- (3) monitoring of activities and accomplishments of funded state projects and
- (4) monitoring Maine's compliance with the core requirements of the Act.

The Act requires that the JJAG submit recommendations regarding that compliance to the governor and legislature annually.

Those core requirements are:

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders**  
Juveniles charged with offenses that would not be criminal if committed by an adult (such as truancy and running away) should not be placed in secure detention or correctional facilities.
- **Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails and Lockups**  
No juvenile shall be detained or confined in a jail or lockup intended for adult offenders beyond specified time limits: six hours in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and 24 hours in other areas.
- **Sight and Sound Separation**  
During the temporary period that a juvenile may be securely held in an adult jail and lockup, sight and sound contact is not permitted between the juvenile and adult inmates or trustees.
- **Disproportionate Minority Confinement**  
States must reduce the proportion of juveniles who are youth of color who are detained or confined in secure facilities if such proportion exceeds the proportion such group represents in the total population.

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## ***Maine's compliance with the four requirements***

The State of Maine eliminated status offenses from its juvenile code in the early 1970's. Based on the 1998 Compliance Monitoring Report to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Maine was out of compliance with the jail removal requirement. However, 1999 data indicates that Maine is currently in compliance with *de minimus* exceptions. (*de minimus* exception allows states a limited number of instances of noncompliance in making a determination regarding compliance.)

Maine is currently in full compliance with the Sight and Sound Separation requirement.

As no minority group makes up 1% of Maine's juvenile population, no report on Disproportionate Minority Confinement has been required. Ethnicity data on juveniles detained and/or confined is currently being collected, as the proportion of minority youth has been growing.

## ***Information and Advocacy***

Advocacy for juveniles in the justice system is the JJAG's most important function. Their Legislative Committee monitors all pending legislation and provides testimony when appropriate. With these activities, the JJAG works to help instill public confidence in the juvenile justice system.

## ***Funding***

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act provides each state with formula grants, allocated on the basis of its population under the age of 18. Each core requirement carries 25% of the funding, so Maine, in compliance with 3 of the 4 requirements, is eligible for 75% of the available grant. Funds must first be used to meet the core requirement of the Act. Once in compliance, funds may be used for a variety of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs and services. JJAG made 22 awards in calendar year 1999, using approximately \$311,000 of formula grant funds to support prevention, intervention, and youth oriented community policing projects.

Challenge grants for one or more of ten specific program areas are available to any state participating in the formula grant program. Maine's current allocation of \$87,000.00 funded two Challenge activities last year:

- Research around gender equity in the juvenile justice system and gender specific programming
- Funding for flexible, or "wraparound", treatment services to allow Juvenile Intensive Supervision Services caseworkers to meet the treatment needs of clients when no other resources can be found.

Title V –Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention are designated for comprehensive delinquency prevention programming at the local community level. Title V funds are allocated to the states based on population under the age of 18. Six communities have received a total of \$275,000 in the last two years for a variety of prevention projects. Maine's current allocation is \$174,000.00 under the Title V Delinquency Prevention category.

Listed on the following pages are municipalities and agencies implementing projects funded by the JJAG in the past year, including project summaries and contacts for further information.